Mississippi Star

Anniversary Issue

SEPTEMBER 1997
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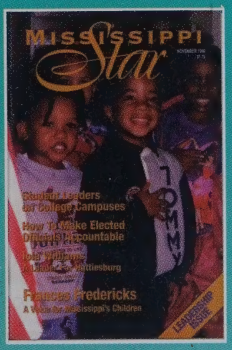

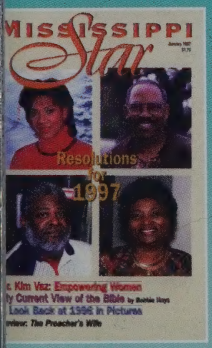

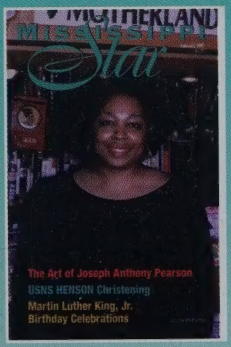
Mississippi Star
The Art of Joseph Anthony Pearson
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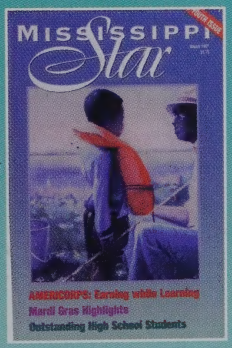

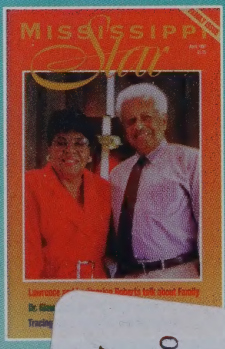

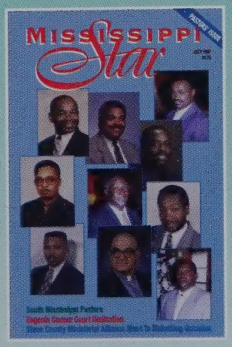

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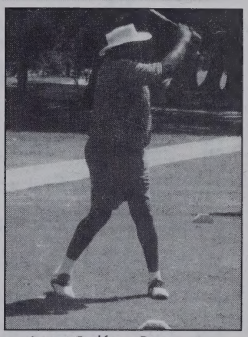
MISSISSIPPI Star

VOL.2 NO. 1 SEPTEMBER 1997

CONTENTS



African American Golfers Converge on Great Southern Club golf course (page 17)

DEPARTMENTS

4 Publisher's Page

7 Letters

13 Book Review: How To Succeed In Business Without Being White

31 Guest Word

29 News Briefs

34 Calendar

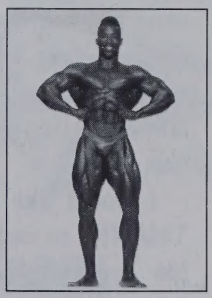
African American-Owned Bank Anticipates Year 2000 (page 22)

FEATURES

17 Gulfport Par Busters Golf Tournament Highlights

23 African American Bank Anticipates Opening in 2000

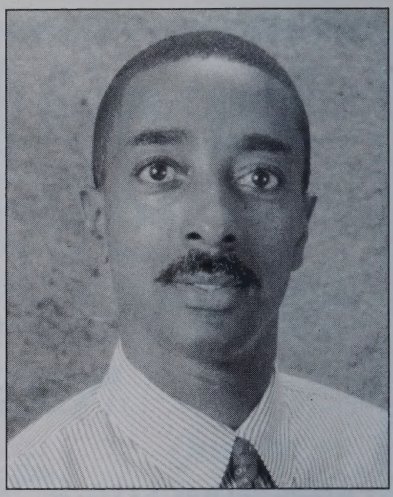
26 Charles E. Hawkins, Jr. Lifts for Life



Bodybuilder Charles E. Hawkins, Jr. (page 26)

FAMILY ★ HEALTH ★ EDUCATION ★ BUSINESS ★ CULTURE

PUBLISHER'S PAGE



Maurice E. Singleton, Jr.

I have received many words of encouragement and congratulatory comments over the past couple of months as *Mississippi Star* approached its first anniversary. I must admit that I have listened very closely to the accolades because they usually preceded a useful suggestion or a simple confirmation that *Mississippi Star* is addressing a need in our community. So, consequently, these comments have meant a lot to me.

Personally, I am extremely proud of the first year's success of *Mississippi Star.* We delivered twelve issues. We explored interesting topics; and many interesting people were featured in *Mississippi Star* who may have gone unrecognized by other publications. And certainly, wherever I have been during the past year, someone I have never met before, recognized me from the magazine; and usually, they had something to say - very positive - about how much they enjoyed the *Mississippi Star.*

I would like to extend a special THANKS to each and everyone who has contributed to the success of *Mississippi Star* during the critical first year. I regret that I can't call each of you by name. There are many of you. Some of you know me; some of you know very little about me; others learned about me and the magazine from readers, subscribers or the newspaper. But you showed your support by subscribing. Obviously, you either wanted me or the idea to succeed. Your support is very much appreciated. Thank You!

To those who purchased second, third and in some cases more subscriptions for friends and family as gifts, what a compliment this was in the first year of the publication. To those who solicited subscriptions from co-workers, particularly in the second month of the publication, you set a standard, a marketing record - 99 subscriptions - the best single-month of the first

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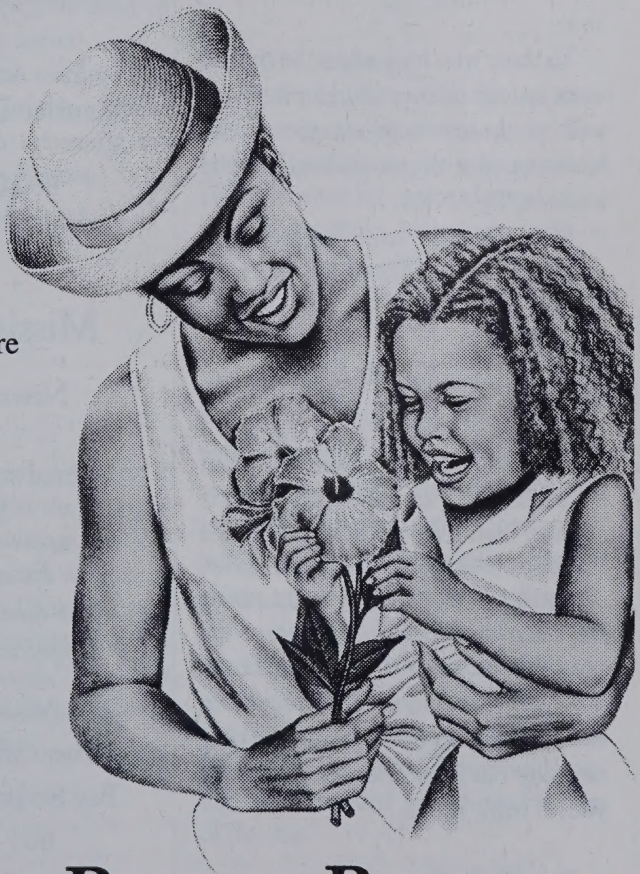

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EQUAL HOUSING LENDER

PUBLISHER'S PAGE

twelve months in the life of *Mississippi Star.* I have drawn energy and inspiration from your efforts, support and energy. Thank You!

To the teachers who purchased subscriptions to *Mississippi Star* for their classes, this is truly a compliment. I would hope you will someday share in our Letters section the reactions and responses of your students. Thank You!

To those who have taken the time to write articles or contribute opinions as well as those whose experiences we have shared with our readers, I extend a sincere THANKS.

Sharing your contributions and examples is what *Mississippi Star* is all about. You are great role models. Thank You!

To the advertisers who took significant risk, investing capital in such a new product, I would sincerely hope that your businesses continue to grow, thrive and realize multi-fold increases in traffic, sales and profits. Thank You!

Lastly, *Mississippi Star* is not nearly what it will grow to become in the next year or even the distant future. So, if you have enjoyed *Mississippi Star* so far, I truly believe that you are going to enjoy our growth as we grow with you. Thank You!

Best Wishes!
Maurice E. Singleton, Jr. MS

MISSISSIPPI Star

PUBLISHER
Maurice E. Singleton, Jr.

ART DIRECTOR
BUCHANAN/FONTAINE
Marketing.Communications.Design

ADVERTISING
Maurice E. Singleton, Jr.

BUSINESS MANAGER
Vonretta Singleton

Mississippi Star

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LETTERS

Maurice,

All issues have been of excellent quality. The issue that I found provided the best positive reflections on the African-American experience was the Nov. '96 issue with special focus on "Student Leaders on College Campuses," and also "How to Make Elected Officials Accountable." As a people we need to focus more on our young people and helping them achieve. They are our future. And, as a people, we need to become more politically astute.

I look forward to reading the *Mississippi Star* each month. You're doing a great job with informing the community on important issues.

Sincerely,
Sharon Singleton
Arlington, Virginia

Mr. Singleton,

You're becoming a great publisher; it did not surprise us. You are doing a superb job. We love *Mississippi Star.* We look forward to reading each edition.

CONGRATULATIONS - You are a credit to the coast communities and a great mentor for our youth. God has given you an exceptional talent. Always use it for the glory of Him.

"Coach" and Ann Stepney
Gulfport

Maurice,

Mississippi Star is a progressive magazine that provides a substantive and dynamic message for forward-thinking African-Americans. Without question, it has filled a major void in communicating the African-American experience. Continue your stride toward excellence.

Alvin J. Williams
Hattiesburg

Dear Mr. Singleton,

We would like to take this opportunity to express our sincere appreciation and congratulations for your successful efforts to show the positive images of the African American community here on the Mississippi Gulf Coast.

It is heartwarming to view in print the accomplishments, achievements, and successes of the many African Americans on the Mississippi Gulf Coast who are featured in your publication each month. The *Mississippi Star* affords all people an opportunity to learn firsthand that the African American portrayed in the mainstream press and on television are not representative of the majority of articulate and productive African Americans throughout this area.

Happy Anniversary! We look forward to the future eagerly anticipating the continued growth and success of the Star.

Sincerely,
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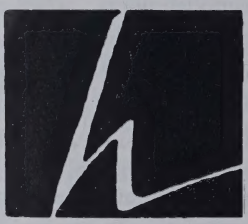

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Dear Maurice,

Congratulations on the first anniversary of *Mississippi Star!* I have enjoyed each issue as it informs me of the achievements and accomplishments of the African-American community in South Mississippi. I also feel that it serves to increase the awareness and pride of all regarding these contributions to society.

Keep up your good work!

Sincerely
Ninette Webster
Pass Christian & New Orleans

Dear Maurice,

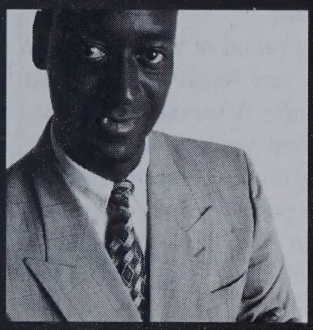
When we studied journalism together at USM, I should have known you'd eventually put that degree to good use! You have produced a quality magazine with a great variety about exceptional people. Thanks so much for enriching all of our lives once a month. I will definitely renew my subscription and my gift subscriptions if I can remember to whom I gave them. Congratulations on a successfully fulfilled dream.

Sincerely,
Jeannie Deen
Bay St. Louis

Sir,

I'm excited about your format and enjoy reading the scope of positiveness expressed. Occasionally, I'd like to see an issue or two covered, and I feel personally that you have the expertise and sophistication to handle one without angering anyone. However, I commend you for your courage and wish you continued achievements.

Gene R. Gordon
Waveland



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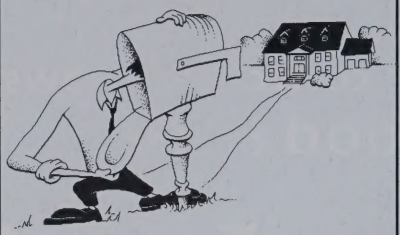

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Mississippi Star!

Letters to the Publisher should be 100 words or less. **Star Calendar:** Events of interest to South Mississippians should be submitted on your organization's letterhead, specifying the date, time, place of event and a number of contact.

Submissions should be received by the twentieth day of the preceding month. Be sure to include a daytime telephone number. Mail submissions to *Mississippi Star,* P.O. Box 2651, Bay St. Louis, MS 39521.

Mississippi Star reserves the right to refuse or decline to publish any submission.

Dear Maurice:

I am very proud of you. You have overcome a very tough year, but you never gave up. A winner never does. God has given you a wonderful gift. But not only do you communicate and promote the positives of our community, you are an example of what a strong family unit filled with love and belief in God can produce. You are my role model. Many readers of *Mississippi Star* have told me how much they enjoy reading it. As a matter of fact, I've been told, "It's so good I can't wait to get the next issue." All our children need role models such as yourself. I am very blessed to be a part of your dream. And I'm glad God gave you the will and determination to make your dream become a reality.

Sincerely,
Vonretta Singleton
Bay St. Louis

Dear Maurice,

The excellence and success of your publication comes as no surprise to me. Years ago, in that second grade classroom, the makings were already there. Continued success and keep up the good work!

Mrs. Dorothy Bradley
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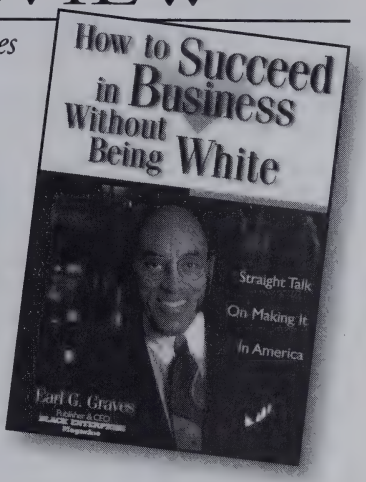
BOOK REVIEW

by Larry Jones

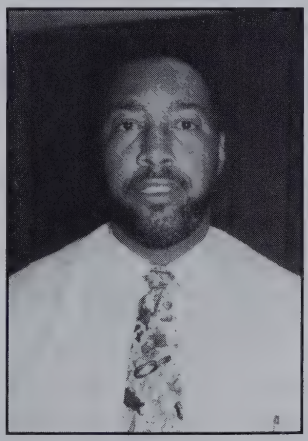

How to Succeed in Business Without Being White
Straight Talk On Making It In America
Earl G. Graves
Publisher & CEO
BLACK ENTERPRISE Magazine

How to Succeed in Business Without Being White

Earl G. Graves, Author

In today's world of, "I can't make it in the 'legit world' because of the System" which translates to, "the white man keeps holding me back," Earl Graves, publisher and CEO of Black Enterprise Magazine, has provided a sterling example of "You Can Make It If You Try". Let's examine what he has to say:

1. *You've got to have something to offer.*
2. *You've got to understand that there is lots of competition in the market-place, and you need an "edge", something that sets you or your product apart from the competition.*
3. *You've got to believe in yourself and in what you are doing.*
4. *You've got to have some type of support system.*
5. *You've got to have the courage to act and to get back up and try again if you are knocked down.*
6. *Racism is Alive and Well.*



Larry Jones

1. You've Got to Have Something to Offer.

Earl Graves tells of his dreams from the time of his boyhood on the streets of New York City throughout his days as a student at Morgan State College. He was born into a family where he was taught to work hard for what he wanted. From his parents he learned to hold several jobs at the same time rather than not work at any one job simply because it didn't pay what he felt it should. From early on he learned to "hustle."

Early in his formative years young Earl developed an understanding that if you could find out what people wanted and could get it to them at a competitive price you had a "sale." So following college, a stint in the Army as a Green Beret, and service as a congressional

staffer, he naturally gave in to the entrepreneurship "bug." In 1970 Black Enterprise Magazine was launched. Earl believed that there was a growing professional middle class out there in the market place which was untapped. He felt this group yearned to read of successful role models and to learn how they had made it so that a "pathway" might be followed. Black Enterprise Magazine is a living demonstration for countless thousands of people of color that they too can become a force in the world of commerce. Now, after 20 plus years, Black Enterprise Magazine is still a guiding light.

2. You've Got to Understand That There Is Lots of Competition. I might add not only is there lots of competition in the market place challenging you for the dollar, but most of it is good. When Black Enterprise started, Ebony and Jet were the "lead dogs." I vividly remember going to the barber shop on Saturday mornings and passing the time reading Jet while I waited. Jet and later Ebony were the magazines most read by Blacks. I remember an episode of the television show, Sanford and Son. In that episode, Lamont was busy in the junkyard helping a customer when another person came looking for something unique. Lamont asked him to have a seat and while doing so, the man picked up a magazine which was on a table and noticed it depicted Black people in a positive light. Lamont came over to help him and was asked about the copy of Ebony. Lamont stated that it was a magazine about Blacks and asked the customer, "Why don't you read Ebony? I read Life (Magazine)."

That aside, Jet and Ebony were both already recognized as quality products before Black Enterprise was introduced. Earl could have backed away from his idea because Ebony and Jet were already getting what is the "lifeblood" - advertising dollars. He could have reasoned that "the 'System' had let a 'token magazine' through and there was not room for another, so don't even try." Graves decided that his product differed significantly enough from Jet and Ebony that he refused to fold up tent. He believed that he could battle the competition head-on for the advertising dollar.

3. You've Got to Believe in Yourself and in What You Are Doing.

Brother, do you believe? Earl tells that even while he was going around to corporate America knocking door-to-door for potential advertising dollars, his competition was knocking on those same doors and telling Corporate America that he (Earl) was crazy, that there was no such thing as a black professional middle class. Corporate America was told that we were just a group of consumers who had no ambition to be entrepreneurs and that money spent on a magazine which supported such an idea was business folly. Earl learned about what was happening and used it as motivation. He didn't allow such negativism to defeat him or derail his quest of his goal.

Earl Graves believed in himself and what he was doing! He adds that after you have made your mark in the world don't be afraid to help someone else.

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4. You've Got to have Some Type of Support System.

Or, stated another way, no man (or woman) is an island unto himself. Graves had a supportive family who encouraged him in every way possible. He stated that he's sure that some have made it without a supportive family but he doesn't see how. The family is the primary source for honest feedback when you need it most. Whether through a loan from family members or through a bank or some other source, your goal will have to have financial backing to be reached. Sometimes alliances built with others who share your dream may be the vehicle needed to get your business off the ground. Make sure you understand that when you take on partners they will want a say in calling the shots, so you will no longer have complete control. Earl cautions to decide whether you can deal with partners and the "hassle" associated with them.'

5. You've Got to have Heart.

In reading Graves' book, I came to the conclusion that you may have the best idea for a product or service ever thought of. You may have put together the best business plan ever devised, but if you don't have the courage to act or the courage to get back up and try again after you've been knocked off your feet, you don't have a thing. Far too many of us will let the least bit of a hurdle trip us up. I've tried to determine just why this happens and I believe it's because we lack the fundamental belief that we can win. For far too long we have allowed others to decide for us how far we go in Life. In doing so we find it easy to blame others for our failures when we don't achieve or get out of life what we want. The truth is we didn't have the courage to put forth our best effort toward the goal in the first place.

6. Racism is Alive and Well.

In the final passages of his book, Earl cautions us that we should not fool ourselves. There are still those who have no interest in you doing well simply because your skin color is different. These are the same ones who will place any obstacle possible in your path with hopes of tripping you up. That being said, look for ways around those people. And, by the way, don't be too surprised if you find support from someone who looks just like the same person who's trying to hurt you. REMEMBER, don't assume that all people of the same ethnic group are the same or feel the same.

Finally, I highly recommend you rush out and purchase your own copy of How to Succeed in Business Without Being White and read it. It is a storehouse of "pearls" which could make a difference.

Larry Jones is the Purchasing Manager for Hancock Bank in Gulfport, Mississippi. He is the treasurer for the Mississippi Minority Business Alliance, a statewide organization seeking national recognition in association with the National Minority Suppliers Development Council. He is a graduate of North Gulfport High School and Morehouse College.

GULF COAST PAR BUSTERS 18th ANNUAL TOURNEY

Herman King of New Orleans, 1996 and 1997 Overall Par Buster Champion (Shot 74 on Saturday and 70 on Sunday.)

Approximately one hundred golfers from across the country converged on the Great Southern Club Golf Course in Gulfport over the weekend of August 16 -17. They all came to play in the 18th Annual Par Busters Golf Tournament.

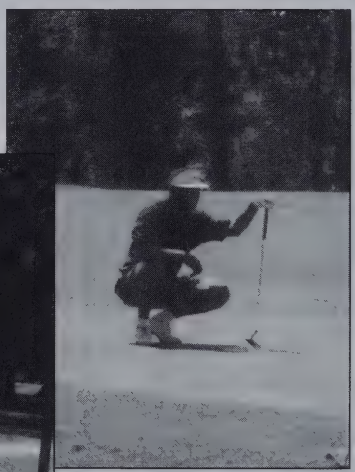
There was certainly something different, something special about this group of golfers. They wore the traditional hats and caps golfers wear and the two-tone or white shoes. Some wore shorts; some wore neatly pressed slacks. One man wore a pair of the traditional knickers with a coordinated Kango bip cap.

But aside from their attire, there was something uniquely special about this group of golfers. There was a certain flair, an air of confidence that they belonged and that this was their time to shine on the fairways and greens of the Great Southern Club.

GULF COAST PAR BUSTE

Willie Richardson holds first place trophy in first flight.

Gulf coast Par Busters pose f
(From left) Luther Graves, Willie H
Grace, tournament director for s
1997 tournament director, Hern
Elaine Lewis (not pictured A.G.



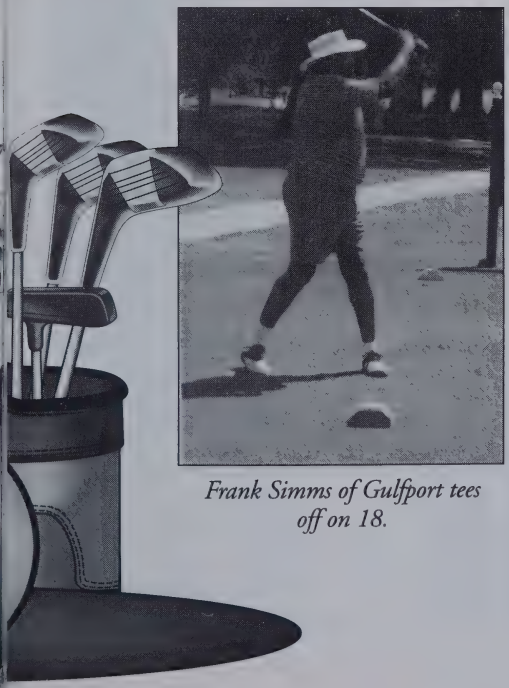
Marshall Bell of Hattiesburg lines up to putt on 8.

Lester Smith of Pensacola holds his form as he watches the results of his drive on 18.

18th ANNUAL TOURNEY

h at Saturday night banquet.
d Stubbs, Arthur Kennedy, Raymond
rs through 1996, Robert Gillum,
(club treasurer), Joan Johnson and
rry Ramsey and Leonard Jordan)

Robert McDuffie of Mobile, John "Old Folks" Whittle of Gulfport, Ann Sanders of Mobile and Judge Anthony Miller of New Orleans take a moment to pose at Tee Box 9.



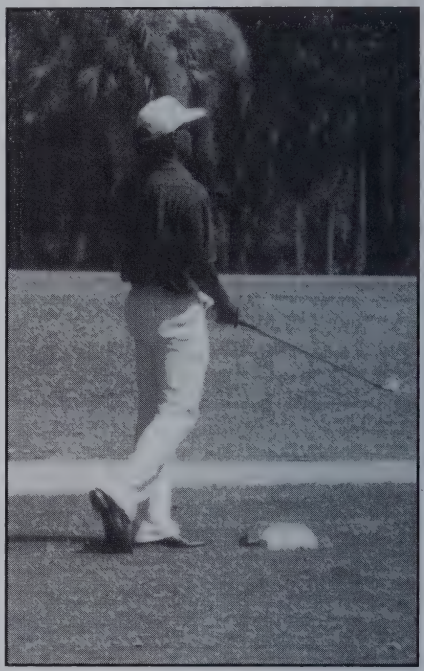
Frank Simms of Gulfport tees off on 18.

Ann Sanders putts for par on seventeen.

A lot has changed in the game of golf over the past decade, particularly over the past few years as the golf world prepared for and welcomed the young golfer Tiger Woods to courses across the country.

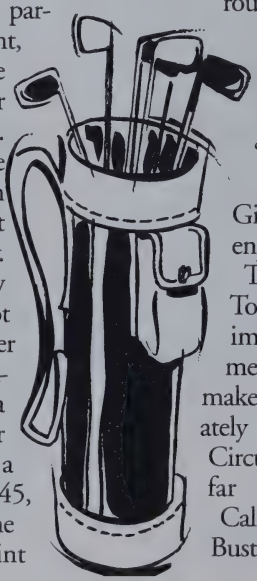
"We use to caddy here," Bobby Gillum, this year's tournament director recalled. "That's the way many of us got exposed to the game," he explained, referring to Raymond Grace, himself and some of the other golfers who make up the Par Busters Golf Club. He explained that many African American golfers developed their skills by going to the courses where they worked and played early in the morning while it was still dark. They learned from observing and picking up pointers from the golfers they worked with. Some of them developed their games to a competitive level of play.

"Wherever you go in the South, people who know golf know Raymond (Grace)," Gillum pointed out. "Raymond could hit the ball!"



Brent Hollinger of Pensacola, Florida and a previous Bar Buster champion tees off on 9.

Host teams don't usually participate in their tournament, however there was some good, competitive golf over the two-day tournament. John Brown of Baton Rouge shot a 68, 3 under par on Saturday, but he could not hold, shooting 81 on Sunday. Herman King of New Orleans came from a six shot deficit, shooting a one under par 70 to win the tournament. Also putting on a strong charge was Sylvester Jones II of Mobile, shooting a final round 70 to finish at 145, good for second place in the championship flight. Clint Hollinger of Mobile, starting Sunday's round at one under par 70, two shots off the lead, "blew up" to a final round score of 77 which was good for third place.



"We had real good competition in all eight flights," Gillum said. "And everybody enjoyed themselves."

The Par Busters Golf Tournament is one of approximately thirty-five tournaments across the country that make up what has been affectionately referred to as the "Chitlin' Circuit." Players come from as far away as Detroit and California to participate in Par Busters. John Thompson, for-

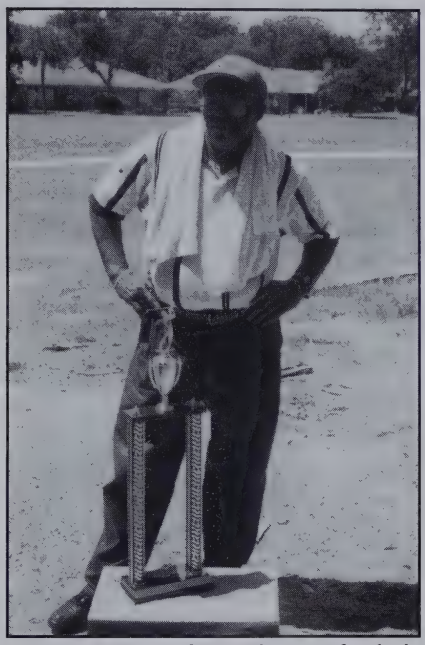
merly of Gulfport, now residing in Detroit, returns home every year to play.

At one time these tournaments were the only outlets for African American golfers to come together and compete.

"We attend tournaments in Houston, Pensacola, Mobile, Natchez, Baton Rouge, New Orleans, Jackson, Shreveport, Meridian and some others," Gillum explained. "I can't make all of them. Maybe when I retire I will. I enjoy getting to meet people from all walks of life. Golfers are some of the friendliest people I've ever met. Whenever I'm in a strange town, I go to the golf course."

Gillum says that the primary goals of Par Busters are to entice and encourage young people, males and females to play golf, to award scholarships and to support the good of the community.

Willie Richardson of Jackson and Sylvester Jones of Mobile renew old acquaintance.



Norman Lang of Pass Christian finished second in the fourth flight.

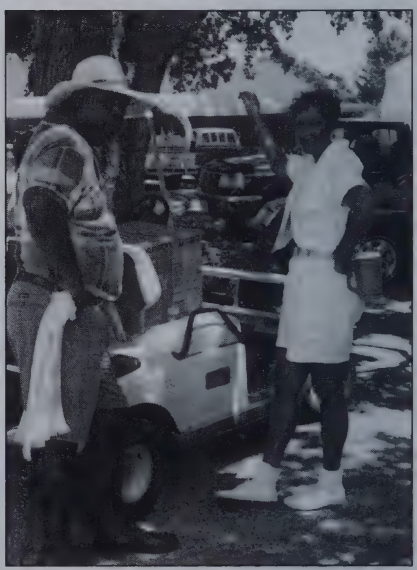
"Golf teaches discipline and self control," said Gillum. "Golf is a great teacher. It teaches self-discipline that can be helpful to all aspects of life. It teaches critical thinking. I believe that it even teaches management skills in some form. You have to be able to manage the golf course in order to play it well."

And while golf's popularity as a sport is catching on amongst African Americans, Gillum says the game's potential for building business relationships offers possibilities as well. "I've had jobs offered to me through playing golf," he said. "Many times jobs have been created on the golf course. Partnerships have been developed. Who knows what can happen when you get people together. It can result in many positive things."

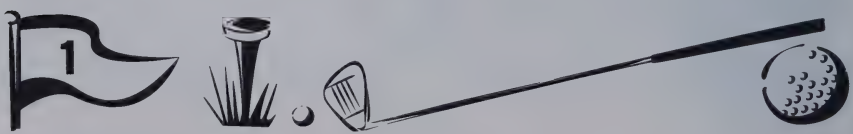
Raymond Grace 1980-1996 tournament director and Bobby Gillum 1997 tournament director take a moment to discuss success of this year's tournament.

Judge Anthony Miller of New Orleans prepares to putt on 17.

Ann Sanders of Mobile holds first place trophy in ladies flight.



Herman Watson and Joan Johnson take a break after unloading trophies and prizes.



African American Bank Group Anticipates Opening in 2000

The Mississippi Gulf Coast Minority Banking Group, Inc. is anticipating opening doors of the first African American owned bank on the Mississippi Gulf Coast in the year 2000. With less than two and a half years to go before the start of the next millenium, it appears that regardless of what they have accomplished to date, the next twenty-eight months are going to be extremely busy ones for the Mississippi Gulf Coast Minority Banking Group, Inc. board members.

"We need one million dollars to start a new bank and a half million to start a branch bank," La Quetta Golden, president of the Mississippi Gulf Coast Minority Banking Group, Inc. explained. She said that money in the range of "tens of thousands" of dollars had been raised to date, however she did not reveal how close or how far the group is from reaching its target goal of $1 million to start a new independent bank.

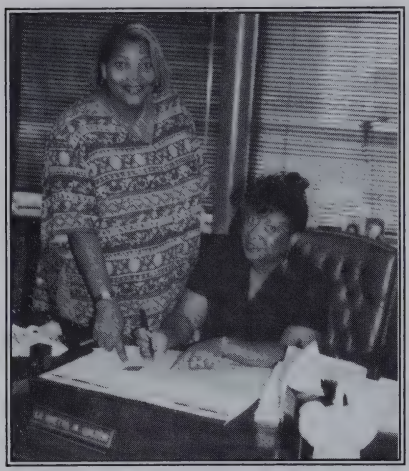
It was just over two years ago when the idea of starting an African American-owned bank on the Mississippi Gulf Coast first surfaced at a community mass meeting of the Gulfport Branch of the NAACP. After a year of research indicated that it was a "do-able" project, a board was organized and members have had success at raising some of the money.

Attorney La Quetta Golden, President of the Mississippi Gulf Coast Minority Banking Group, Inc.

"What encourages me is that we are getting money weekly," she explained. She said that contributions have consistently come in and that many investors are coming from out of state. "When I see the envelopes come in, and they're from people who don't even know us, it is really encouraging to see that."

An interested person can invest a minimum of $500 or fifty shares ($10 per share). Golden said that those 50 shares may be purchased over a ten month period. She added that 75 percent of investors are getting involved this way.

In addition to local investors Golden said that money has come from people



Frankie Burk, vice president of banking group and Golden prepare for upcoming community mass meeting.

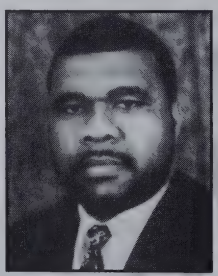
in California, Virginia, Texas, Connecticut and Michigan. Presently, the group is developing a brochure targeted at high-income investors.

"I am happy with what we have accumulated," she explained, "but we are far from where we should be. I would be happier if we received more five-digit, six-digit and seven-digit investments."

Golden would also like to see more investors from the communities the bank will serve. "Many of us don't think that we are worthy to have our own bank," she explained.

"If this is the case it is wrong for Blacks to own money.

CONWAY & MARTIN
Attorneys At Law



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"An executive from a local bank actually told me that it was wrong to have a Black bank," she said. "We have to overcome this mentality. We have to understand that we have to compete. Sometimes we have to demand. Once we overcome that, the monies should come flowing better."

How will this bank differ from other banks?

"From the outside there will be very little difference," Golden explained. "We will offer whatever services other banks offer, whatever federal regulators allow us.

"We will promote diversity," she added. "We won't mind hiring minorities. We will be more sensitive to the needs of minorities."

Golden sees the bank as a foundation for many great things. She envisions the main bank to be located on highway 49 in Gulfport and eventually to have branches throughout South Mississippi. She also envisions office buildings, "nice restaurants" and theatres that might be funded by loans from the new bank that would provide citizens with quality recreation as well as pride for the community that created it.

"It will be nice to say that our community put this building there."

The Mississippi Gulf Coast Minority Banking Group, Inc. meets every third Friday at 6p.m. at Attorney Golden's office in the Hatten Building in Gulfport. MS

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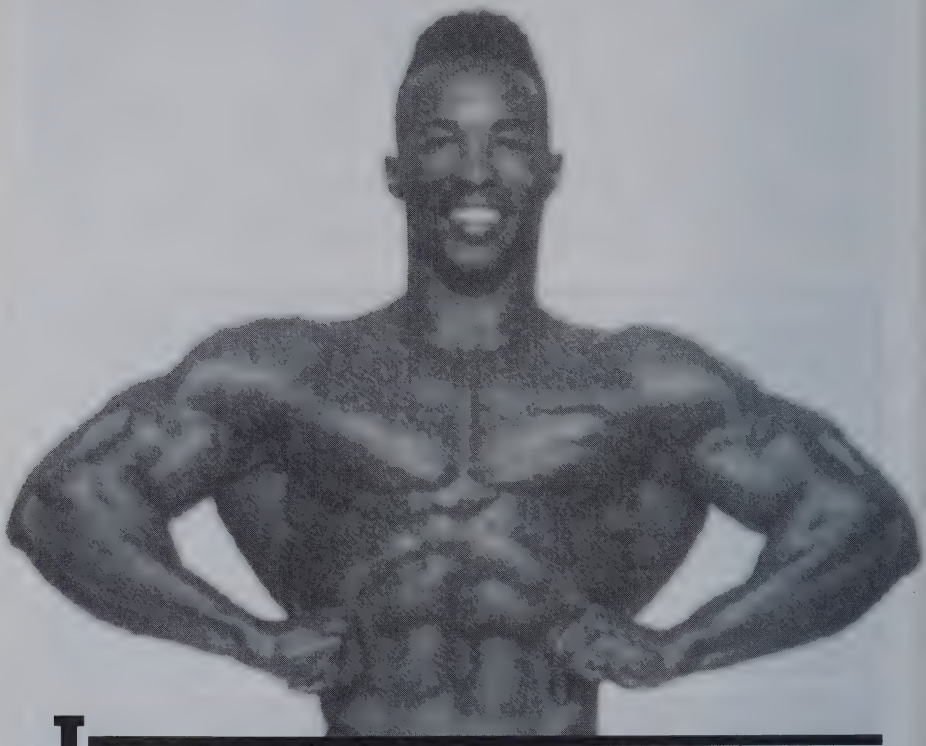
Charles E. Hawkins, Jr. Lifts For Life

by Maurice E. Singleton, Jr.



It is almost incomprehensible to believe that anyone "use to beat up on" Charles E. Hawkins, Jr. But the 210-pound, 32-year-old champion bodybuilder says bullies taking advantage of him and being rejected by a football coach had a lot to do with him winning the light heavyweight and overall state bodybuilding championships this past July in Jackson.

"When I was younger, I had very low self esteem," the native of Waveland, Mississippi recalled. "I use to sit in the back of the school to be away from everyone because I didn't want to get beat up. Even the girls use to pick on me. Weightlifting for me was a way to overcome that."

Hawkins has come a long way from the days of getting beaten up in ele-

mentary school. However, he has not forgotten where he came from, and he hasn't forgotten the youth who are currently going through some of the unpleasant things he experienced as a child. He serves as youth pastor at Powerhouse of Deliverance Ministries in Bay St. Louis and Picayune.

" Many homes don't have male role models," explained Hawkins. "I try to impart something positive into the lives of children. I can relate with the hurt and the pain, the feelings of loneliness that they are going through. But I tell them, 'If your dream doesn't come true, you don't have anyone to blame but yourself.'"

Hawkins is a firm believer that each of us has within ourselves the ability to overcome adversity and to rise above obstacles to achieve success. He says that he has been there, and he understands the possibilities.

When he was in junior high, Hawkins went out for the football team. He was told that he was too small and that he wouldn't do well. So he started lifting weights. "I couldn't afford to go to the gym," he explained. "I would lift two blocks on the end of a broomstick, or I would fill jugs with sand and lift them.

"My junior year of high school I started at noseguard," he recalled. "After my junior year I told the coach I wanted to play running back. He told me I was too slow. That summer I built me a wooden sled with a rope tied to two innertubes, one for each shoulder. Everyday I pulled my brother and sister around the block, getting myself ready to play running back. My senior year I started at noseguard and fullback, mostly playing short-yardage running plays.

"I did real good as a fullback," Hawkins remembers, however, he admits that he was much better at noseguard. His point is, the more you work at something, the better your chances are for success. He grins at the thought of what might have been if he had the chance at a second year playing the fullback position.

But he is not nearly as concerned with the past as he is with the future, particularly the futures of children.

"I can relate with the hurt and the pain, the feelings of loneliness that they are going through. But I tell them, 'If your dream doesn't come true, you don't have anyone to blame but yourself.'"

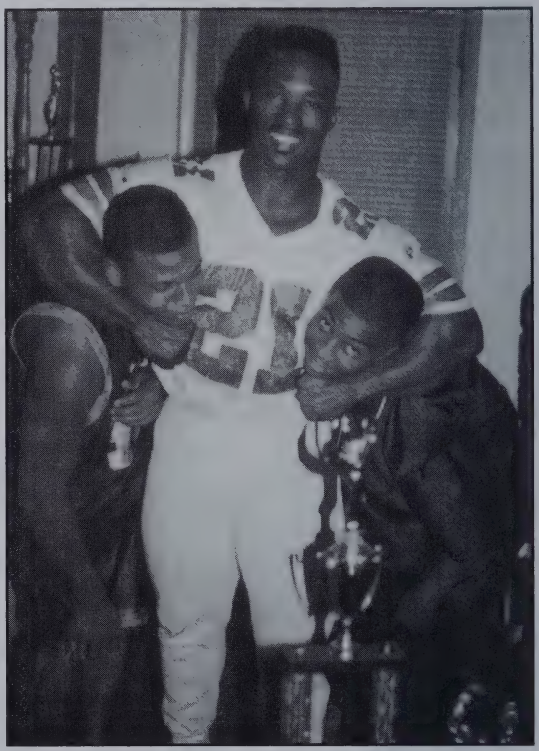
"Today, these young men are choosing between selling drugs or working at McDonald's," he explained, clearly frustrated. "They can make foursomething an hour at McDonald's or $100 a day selling drugs. When you have teenagers making decisions, a lot of them will choose to sell the drugs and make the fast money, the quick gain."

Hawkins is providing the youth of his church as well as the youth he counsels along the coast with a great example of healthy living: His life. His work with the youth in his church community, the disciplined and demanding workout schedule he maintains to remain competitive, respect for his family, a loving

commitment to his wife and a deep, unquestioning faith in God are wholesome ingredients and a good example for anyone.

Hawkins realizes his value as a role model and he accepts the challenges of that responsibility as well as keeping himself in top shape to be the best role model he can be. "I plan to lift weights the rest of my life," he said. "It's a habit I have; I plan to take it to the grave with me."

He also realizes the value of the wisdom of parents and caring adults: "When I was a little boy, my Mama would always have me in church. I have always remembered a particular scripture reading I heard, Ephesians 6, Verses 1 and 2. "Children obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. Honor thy Father and thy Mother which is the first commandment with promise that it may be well with thee and thou may live long on this earth."



Charles enjoying a moment with his two sons, Rendell and Charles III.

"So I knew one of the keys was obeying my parents; and another, taking care of myself.," he points out. "My Dad and his family all have heart problems. So I knew I had to take care of my physical self."

While taking care of his physical self may be a long-term commitment, the short term commitments are quite demanding. Just two weeks after the state competition, Hawkins weighs twenty pounds more than his competition weight of 190 pounds but he is already focusing on competitions in 1998.

"I'll start dieting tomorrow (September 2)," Hawkins nods encouragingly at the small window of relaxation time he has allowed himself and at the detail that goes into his diet. That diet includes four or five smaller meals every two to three hours. For breakfast he usually eats twelve egg whites and a bowl of oatmeal. For lunch he might have a baked or broiled chicken breast with spinach or greens. At three o'clock he'll eat a can of tuna fish and an apple; and for dinner he usually has brown rice, a chicken or

turkey breast, corn and either spinach or greens.

When you consider how meticulous Hawkins is about the foods he ingests, and how committed he is to his faith and family, the focus of Hawkins life is very clear. "One of the guys I look up to is Jack Lalane," Hawkins proudly exclaims. "He was an old man when I was a little boy, and he is still around; and he is still fit. He has to be in his eighties. My goal is to be here a long time."

Charles E. Hawkins, Jr. is a four-time Mississippi State Light Heavyweight Bodybuilding Champion. He finished third in the United States in the Team Universe Bodybuilding Championships in New York City on August 15-16, 1997. He has been lifting weights for seventeen years and has been competing in bodybuilding for fourteen years. He and his wife Yvette have two sons, Charles III and Rendell Haynes.

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GUEST WORD

by Glenda Singleton-Beal

Over the past year, I have enjoyed reading the *Mississippi Star* and keeping up with the happenings back home. I wanted to take the opportunity of your first year anniversary edition to say both congratulations for a job well done and to let you know how proud I am of your accomplishments.

As I was reading the August issue, your theme was really part of what I wanted to address in my letter to you and your readers. That issue addressed the importance of setting goals and working day by day to achieve those goals. I remember when you were a kid that you expressed your dream of one day publishing a magazine or newspaper for the Gulf Coast. During the last thirty plus years you have turned your dream into a goal and your goal into a reality.

That reality was not achieved overnight; that reality did not just happen. That reality was achieved because you had a dream and you created a plan to turn it into a reality. First of all you realized that you needed to prepare by studying and developing writing skills. Secondly, you realized that being a good writer was only part of what was needed to be successful; you learned the world of business marketing and sales. Third, you may have intuitively known that writing is really about the human condition and being in touch with real people and the real dramas big and small of every day life. Finally, you understood the emotional and financial and personal investments that were needed to get a new publication launched. I've never talked with you about your strategy or your tactical plans on how you got from Bay High graduation in 1971 to launching the *Mississippi Star* in 1996, but as I

look back at your career and life since high school, I do see how the things you did helped to prepare you to create your dream the *Mississippi Star.*

The late Chief Justice Earl Warren of the Supreme Court was quoted as saying, "I always turn to the sports pages first, which record people's accomplishments. The front page has nothing but man's failures." Well, as soon as the *Mississippi Star* arrives, I read it from cover to cover and feel very much connected with the positive things happening back home. In a lot of ways the *Mississippi Star* is for me what the sports pages were to Chief Justice Warren. The *Mississippi Star* has been an incredible salute to the achievements of citizens of the Coast. The Mississippi Star should be both an inspiration to the young people who need role models from every walk of life as well as tributes to the individuals whose struggles and achievements you highlight each month.

I am aware of your commitment to youth and education and I do hope the young people are reading your magazine. The stories and accomplishments that you have shared with them during the past year should inspire them to dream big dreams because with hard work, a good plan and belief in one's self, a dream can become a reality.

Your personal story is an excellent example and a perfect role model for young people of how and why setting goals and living those goals can result in achievement. I am proud of you, your work, your commitment, your values and your accomplishments as is the entire family.

As you begin your second year of communicating to us the stories of the people and events along the Coast remember we are with you and support your efforts. We are extremely proud that you could articulate your dreams as a youngster, that you had the faith and belief in yourself to continue your dream as an adult; that you had the ability to create a plan to turn your dream into a goal and ultimately the business savvy to turn that goal into a reality. To you and all the folks working with you on the *Mississippi Star*.....Keep up the good work!

Sincerely,
Glenda Singleton-Beal

Glenda Singleton-Beal is a 1967 graduate of St. Rose de Lima High School in Bay St. Louis. She resides in Duncanville, TX.

BRIEFS

DuPont Employees Attend Conference

Some DuPont Delisle employees were among the 600 attendees at the Sixth Annual Black Networking Conference held July 17 - 20 in Nashville, Tennessee. The theme of this year's networking conference was "Coming Together as One." Attendees discussed issues such as building stronger networks, improving the way African American employees work together, gaining better understanding of the issues that face African American employees, taking responsibility for personal and professional development and a number of other important issues.

Employees came from various parts of the country, representing DuPont, Conoco, Consol, DuPont Dow, associated subsidiaries and joint ventures throughout the United States. The next conference is scheduled for July 15 - 19, 1998 in Wilmington, Delaware.

Something To Cheer About

East Park Elementary's staff members, Rhonda Jones (left) and Amanda Chestang give a rousing cheer during Moss Point Schools back to school staff celebration on August 8. Teaching, transportation, maintenance, custodial and administrative staff took turns in a cheering contest, heard an update on the district's strategic planning process and created bonds between the various schools and departments over a picnic lunch.

Event sponsors included Morton International; the Naval Station Pascagoula; John Brock, Global Beverages of Cadbury Schweppes; David Brock, buffalo Rock; Moss Point Touch Down Club; Stan Woodward; James H. Easton; Jerry Alexander; Jerry Henry; Jeanie Lunsford; Stephanie Gruich; Kathy Fulcher; Sue Painter; and W.C. Williams on behalf of the Moss Point Baby Tigers.

Calendar

September 6
Mississippi Association of
Black Journalists
Monthly Meeting
WLOX-TV Boardroom
Biloxi
10:00a.m.

September 6
Jackson State University vs
Howard University
Mississippi Memorial Stadium
Jackson
7:00p.m.

September 14
Ayers Hall, Jackson State
University
Phase I of Restoration
Ribbon Cutting Ceremony
Jackson
4:00 p.m.
Information: 968-2055

September 18
Graduate and
Professional Schools
Information Day
Jacob L. Reddix
Campus Union
General Purpose Room
Jackson State University
Information: 968-2477

September 15
Hancock County Branch
NAACP
Monthly Meeting
Valena C. Jones
Methodist Church
Bay St. Louis
7:00 p.m.

September 25
Biloxi Branch NAACP
Monthly Meeting
Branch Office
260 Main Street
Biloxi
7:00 p.m.

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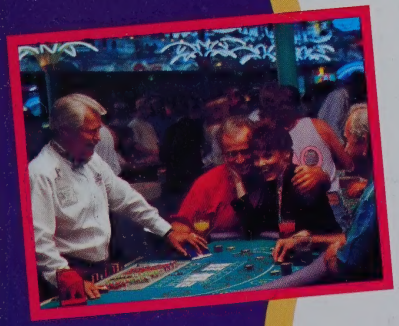

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